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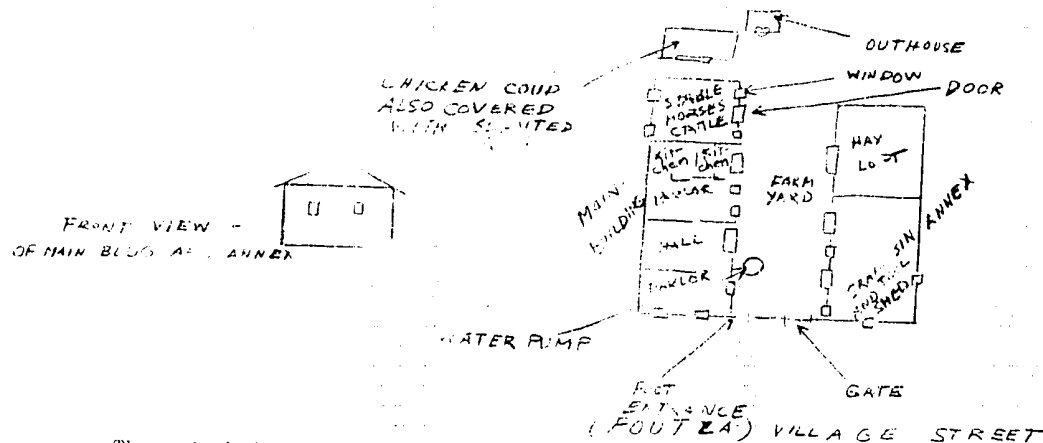
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The design and structure of the farm I owned in Kecsked is similar to the design and structure of farm buildings throughout the country. Here is a sketch giving the layout of this farm.



The main building is 30 m wide and 25 m long. The stable which is attached to the main building is 5 m wide and 8 m long. The Annex (grain bin and farm tools depot) is 5 m wide and 15 m long. The hay lot which is attached to the Annex is 5 m wide and 10 m long. The chicken house is located behind the stable. In back of it is the outhouse.

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This farm was built of red brick in 1925. The slanting roof juts out over the edge of the walls and is made of black Eternite shingles, each of them about 16" square. Only very few buildings in this village are covered with this type of shingle. The majority of farmbuildings in this village and throughout the country are covered with tiles, while the barns are usually covered with cement shingles. Slanting roofs are common on farms throughout the country. The farm buildings described here cover an area of about 500 square meters; farming acreage located outside of the village amounts to 50 Hungarian Joch. Farm buildings line the country road leading through this village on each side and the different individual farms are located fairly close to one another.

There are no private farms left in Hungary. When the Communist regime was established in Hungary, all private property, including farms, was immediately declared property of the state. Many farmers, especially the large estate holders, were chased off their property and Communist Party members, mostly townspeople with no farming experience, took possession. Farm production lagged behind as a result of incompetent management. A limited number of small farms (up to 5 Hungarian Joch), although nationalized, were left to their original owners for management, but due to heavy quota demands these farmers could not operate with profit and were forced to find work on the side.

In 1947, geese were still tended by children. Cattle and pigs were led to pasture by one man for the entire village. They were led out in the morning and returned in the evening. Very likely this procedure has not changed in the meantime. The harvest is not stored in separate buildings. It is stored in the farm annex as shown in the sketch (Par 1). Cattle and horses are usually kept in the barn, which is attached to the main building of the farm.

many of the large estates (farms) had been collectivized. No farms were collectivized in Keszted. Persons not employed in industry or agriculture were drafted for work on these collectivized farms (men, women and adolescents). The physical appearance of these large farms has not changed. the Soviets are more interested in promoting the industrial development of Hungary and that agriculture suffers as a result.

The normal periods for planting wheat and rye are the beginning of October. The following spring, April/May, or even March if weather conditions allow, planting of barley, oats, corn and potatoes is done. Wheat, rye, oats and barley are harvested at the beginning of July; potatoes, corn, sugar beets and sun-flower seeds are harvested in October. The dates for planting and harvesting are the same all over the country. The climate is similar to that which predominates in New York State.

No changes in the pre-war crop pattern were made by the communists.

Hungarian farmers get up at 0400 hours, get dressed and eat breakfast (usually milk with bread, potatoes and a piece of bacon). After breakfast the farm animals (horses and cattle) are fed and at 0600 hours the farmer leaves for work in the fields. At noontime lunch is eaten in the field (bread, a piece of meat or 2 eggs boiled or fried in the open). At 1230 hours the farmer resumes work and stops working again at 1700 hours, for a snack (bread with meat and a pitcher of water). After a rest period of 30 minutes he resumes work and stops at 1900 or 2000 hours. After getting home he feeds the horses while the wife prepares supper. Between 2200 and 2300 hours the entire family has supper and after supper everyone goes to bed. This is the routine followed by Hungarian farmers generally during planting and harvest time (April to November). Wintertime days on the farm are usually spent chopping down trees, making firewood, feeding animals etc. This routine is general also throughout the country. Winter planting is done between September and November. Threshing is done in July (usually the last few days in July). On large farms, threshing extends over the whole month of July, however. Rarely is farm machinery used in Hungary. Horse or oxen-drawn sowing machines are used generally but mowing machines or tractors are found only on very large farms, which have been transformed into kolkhozes. Grain (wheat, rye, barley

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and oats) is still cut by the scythe.

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The following eating habits are followed by employees of village administrations (usually Communist Party members). Breakfast at 0800 hours consists of a piece of bread, a cup of milk and one or two eggs (boiled or fried). This meal is called "Regeli". Between 1000 and 1030 hours this employee eats a snack which is called "Tisz Orai". It consists of a sandwich, slice of bread with butter or fat, a tomato, pepper or some fruit in season, and a glass of water. At noon, between 1200 and 1300 hours, he has lunch which is called "ebed". It consists of a plate of vegetables, soup with some meat or dumplings which are called "gompotsz", and a glass of water. (Factory workers and employees are issued ration coupons which are valid for themselves and their family. The food items listed on these ration coupons are issued to them by the factory food depots and the cost of the food items are deducted from their pay.) At about 1500 hours the employee has a snack, called "ozsona", which consists of a sandwich and some fruit (apple or some grapes). Between 1900 and 2000 hours he has supper, which is called "vacsora". Farmers' eating habits are described in Par 6. The names of these meals are identical.

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There are no markets held in small villages like Kecsked. market was held in Tata, a town 17 kms from Kecsked, every Monday and in Tatabanya, a town 12 kms distant from Kecsked market was held every day during the week. Farmers attend the markets whenever they have products to sell or when they are in need of some items. Means of transportation: Bicycles, horse or oxen-drawn wagons.

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The grape harvest is still accomplished by the individual farmer and his family. The grain harvest is also accomplished by the farmer individually, although he is no longer the owner of his property. If he should need extra labor he may enlist the help of neighbors on the basis of mutual assistance. Farmers can no longer afford to hire free labor since quotas established are very high and they barely manage to keep going.

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There are no sheep in the Kecsked area, only cattle and pigs. One herdsman takes care of these animals for the entire village by leading them to pasture in the morning; in the evening he leads them back to the village. In the Kecskemet area, that is, between Duna and Tisza, sheep are very abundant. This area abounds also in horses and cattle. These animals are tended by the Kecskemeti Gsikosok.

These herds, also sheep-herds, are allowed to graze on the high meadows all summer. The herdsmen remain with their herds all summer and use small mountain-cabins for shelter. Their families usually carry food to them which they prepare in the evening. These herdsmen herd their animals into the mountain foothills in March or beginning of April, as soon as the snow melts, and remain there until the first snow falls (October/November). From one to three bulls in a village community are used for breeding purposes.

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Any type of gifts, except Hungarian money in small denominations, would be unacceptable. Foreign currency would be out of the question. Gifts of any type of articles would arouse suspicion and endanger persons accepting them. Farmers are forbidden to provide lodging to strangers unless their arrival has been reported to the village administration. Farmers are afraid to accept strangers without registering them because neighbors are liable to denounce them and the farmer would be severely punished. Nevertheless, strangers can manage to get along fairly well. Linguistic ability, knowledge of local expressions and dialects are great assets, also native mannerisms, walk and dress. Old worn and patched clothing, never good clothing, should be worn in order to avoid suspicion. Use of a bicycle with some working utensils slung over the cross-bar (front wheel) may prove very suitable.

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2.

There is no place which could provide temporary shelter in the Kecsod area, except in the forests. In order to obtain shelter in a barn, a stranger must produce identity papers and surrender them to the farmer who in turn presents them for examination to the village mayor's office, which is generally staffed with communists. After a check is made the farmer returns the papers to the stranger. There are good landing places for air drops in the Vertes Hegysek and Bakony Hegysek mountains. Principal towns in this area: Szekesfehervar and Tataanya. The largest coal mines in Hungary are to be found in Tataanya.

At a distance of seven kms from Kecsod, another very extensive coal mining area is located at Oroszlany. These very rich fields were exploited by Soviet interests in 1947. A large settlement, consisting of brick houses, was built there to accomodate miners and their families.

3.

No wild or poisonous animals or poisonous plants are encountered in any part of Hungary.

4.

The Altra-er abounds in pike (Ukuka) and whitefish (Kecsek). A few crabs (Rak) may be found there as well. Other streams carry the same type of fish. Small flat-bottom boats are used for fishing on the lakes. They provide space for 3-4 men and may be propelled by oars, a piece of board or even by the hands. After fishing these boats are usually tied up to a tree or bush along the banks.

5.

There are no areas in any part of Hungary where particularly unfavorable sanitary conditions are encountered. All river water is clear and potable since drainage is not directed into rivers or lakes. All towns maintain standard sanitary practices and waste materials are piped into sewage disposal tanks where they are strained and dried. Insects are generally found on farms only, in the vicinity of animals.

6.

Secondary roads are named after the village or town they lead to, ie the road Kecsod-Oroszlany is called Oroszlany Ut. Main roads are called Orszag ut, which means Highways. Roads and highways in the area of Kecsod and Kecsokmet are metalled and in good condition. Roads are never numbered. Road signs indicate the name of and distance to the next town or village. All highways are, at 1 km interval on each side, equipped with stone markers which indicate the name of the next town or village and the distance thereto.

7.

There are no other than official names for Kecsod and Kecsokmet and this applies to any other populated place in Hungary as well.

8.

Oroszlany, a small town 7 kms distant from Kecsod has 5,000 inhabitants. With the exception of 20 families, all these inhabitants are of Slovak origin. These Slovaks are pro-Communist. They are peasants and very poor people. Kecsod's population was predominately ethnic German and no more than a few families were of Hungarian stock. Most of these ethnic Germans, whose property was confiscated, fled to the West, but a few families are still living there. They are resentful and anti-Communist. The population of Kecsod is Roman Catholic. A Roman Catholic priest still officiates there but his activities are closely supervised by the Communist authorities. [redacted] not [redacted] any other ethnic or religious groups in this area.

9.

Farmers and peasants' underwear consist of long-johns only. No undershirts are worn. Among the younger generation shorts are worn instead of long-johns occasionally. Farmers and peasants wear old and worn trousers made of fairly poor material, leather

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boots (sheep boots), shirts, usually striped or brown, blue or green (white on Sundays only), no ties ever, pullovers (not too frequent), old and worn jackets, peaked caps (like those worn by jockeys during work-outs), also hats (mainly black). Raincoats are never worn, but occasionally short winter jackets. Coats are never worn during the summer. Women usually wear wide skirts, blouses and ordinary half-shoes. Towns-people's clothing is somewhat cleaner and of a little better material and they are easily recognized as such. In spite of their poverty and difficulty in obtaining new clothing of any kind, they still try to make the old look fairly decent. The quality of their clothing is not much better, however. Country people are sloven in appearance, indifferent as to how they look, while townspeople still dress properly. Foreigners (western origin) would do well if they dressed like common peasants, their clothing fairly worn and dirty. They should look sloppy, unwashed with unkept hair. With such an appearance they would look like a worker or peasant.

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and regulations valid for all other Hungarian citizens. They were no longer permitted to roam freely. Like every other Hungarian citizen, the gypsy must be in possession of identification papers and he must register for employment in industry or agriculture. Gypsies are forced to accept assignments given them by state authorities and they must live in the area where they are employed.

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